

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 15, 1996

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Former Mississippi resident — Shorrosh weathers danger from challenging Islam

By Bruce Sims



Anis Shorrosh

DAPHNE, Ala. (BP) — Holding the bloodstained cloth of his traditional Arab robe, Anis Shorrosh, an internationally known Southern Baptist evangelist based in Daphne, Ala., tells of the knife attack he suffered at the hands of Muslim militants in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1990.

"It all goes back to what has been termed the 'Debate of the World,'" he said. "I was in England back in 1985 and had the opportunity to view a debate between a Muslim, Sheik Ahmed Deedat, and a Christian preacher. It was one-sided in favor of the sheik and made me sick."

Shorrosh prayed that if God wanted him to debate the Muslim cleric, he would allow it to take place. Shorrosh subsequently challenged the Muslim, who claimed not to have lost a debate to a Christian in 40 years, to a series of debates. Shorrosh paid the expenses for the first debate, and Deedat paid for the second.

"In the first debate, which took place at the Royal Albert Hall in London before 5,000 people, I paved the groundwork for the second debate by establishing the credentials of Jesus," Shorrosh said.

Shorrosh said Deedat was reluctant to debate a second time but, after two and a half years, agreed to schedule the meeting. Before he left for the debate, Shorrosh purchased a burial plot and picked out a casket.

"I didn't think I was coming back," he said. "Hardly anybody has dared stand up to the Muslim world like I have."

"In the (debate) I went over to the offense, before an international audience

of 11,000 in Birmingham, England, and began questioning the Koran and punching holes in its authenticity," he said.

For a Muslim to question the Koran is to invite beheading, Shorrosh said. The Bible, however, is debated openly, he noted, holding up a Dec. 18 copy of *Time* magazine, which asks "Is the Bible fact or fiction?"

"Now if we could just get *Time* to be as objective with the Koran," he said.

Not only did Shorrosh make it through the debate safely, but he also established a global witness via tapes of the event.

"In one Nigerian university, 30 Muslim students and four Muslim professors were converted to Christianity when they listened to the tapes," Shorrosh said. "There have also been many other instances where Muslims have been converted (after) listening to these debates."

Two years later, a visit to South Africa, Deedat's home country, almost ended in tragedy. Shorrosh barely survived an assassination attempt by Muslim militants.

"A Christian brother threw himself between my attacker and myself and took the knife that was intended for me," he said. "I can remember being underneath him and feeling his blood running on me. It felt like being anointed with oil."

Shorrosh survived by running to a waiting car. The man who saved him recovered from his stab wound.

"Islam is the most insecure religion on earth," he said. "It is also the bloodiest." In his book, *Islam Revealed*, Shorrosh questions the authenticity of the Koran; in doing so he has angered

Muslims the world over.

Born an Arab in Nazareth, Shorrosh became a Christian at 18. Before then, he had harbored a hatred for both Jews and Palestinians, because his father was killed by an Israeli land mine and family members were persecuted by Palestinians.

Shorrosh traveled to America at the age of 19 to work on his bachelor's degree at **Mississippi College**. He also attended Clarke College in Newton. After graduation, he earned a master's degree from New Orleans Seminary, and holds doctoral degrees from Luther Rice Seminary and Oxford Graduate School.

From 1959-66, Shorrosh served as pastor and evangelist in the Middle East. Three of those years were spent as pastor of the Jerusalem Baptist Church when it was a part of the Kingdom of Jordan.

He now heads the Anis Shorrosh Evangelistic Association, traveling around the world leading revivals and crusades.

"Truth in Crisis" is the arm of Shorrosh's ministry that focuses on Muslims. Through a seminar, Shorrosh teaches groups about the Muslim religion and explains how Christians can refute it.

However, he does not limit his work to the Muslim ministry. "I am basically an evangelist," he said.

Shorrosh is the author of nine books. *Islam Revealed* was recently translated into Indonesian. Although the book must be sold secretly in the Muslim country, it is in its second printing there.

Sims is a correspondent for *The Alabama Baptist*. Rebecca Day contributed to this article.

Best sellers from Baptist Book Store

Hardback

1. **A Gentle Thunder** by Max Lucado
2. **Experiencing God**
by Henry Blackaby and Claude King
3. **Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper**
by James Dobson
4. **Life on the Edge** by James Dobson
5. **Purpose Driven Church** by Rick Warren
6. **Rebel With a Cause** by Franklin Graham
7. **The Mind of Christ** by T.W. Hunt
8. **My Savior, My Friend** by Kay Arthur
9. **Finishing Touch** by Charles Swindoll
10. **Moments Together for Couples**
by Dennis and Barbara Rainey

Music

1. **Jesus Freak** by DC Talk
2. **I'll Lead You Home**
by Michael W. Smith
3. **R.I.O.T.** by Carman
4. **My Utmost for His Highest**
by various artists
5. **The Whole Truth** by Point of Grace
6. **Heaven in the Real World**
by Steven Curtis Chapman
7. **Jars of Clay** by Jars of Clay
8. **W.O.W. 96** by various artists
9. **Alone in His Presence** By Ce Ce Winans
10. **Sing Out** by Ron Kenoly

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Baptists across the state endorse the defeat of a bill filed in the current legislative session by Rep. Ralph Doxey of Holly Springs that would have legalized pari-mutuel (betting pool) gambling in the state.

20 years ago

Rev. C.J. Olander and his wife Dollie donate a tract of land near Tchula worth \$50,000 to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, with instructions to use the proceeds from the sale of the land to fund Southern Baptist mission and education causes.

50 years ago

Participants in the Mississippi Baptist Evangelistic Conference, to be held this year in Clinton, are warned to bring their own bedding due to a shortage in accommodations, but they are invited to eat in the Mississippi College cafeteria for \$1 per day.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Any other nominations...

It is easy to get excited about Southern Baptist missionaries being in 183 countries and about churches increasing their gifts through the Cooperative Program. However, there is one trend in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) that evokes little excitement and has the possibility of doing irrevocable damage.

The practice of nominating the SBC president six to nine months prior to the meeting is hardly commendable. This feeds the idea of the president's election being the "main thing" and adds an element of politics that is deadening. It gets the "jump" on others and exacerbates a prophetic certainty to his being elected. In past years a handful of SBC leaders would take a cruise and the revelation of the next president's identity would be revealed.

It has been reported that Tom Eliff, pastor in Del City, Okla., has been nominated for SBC president,

to be elected at the SBC's June meeting. Immediately after that announcement, half a dozen influential SBC pastors echoed their approval. He has now received the approval of the SBC leadership and will be elected. This strong anointing came as an indication of the Holy Spirit's leadership, so there is little likelihood of anyone else being nominated.

There was a day when the Spirit saw fit to wait — or at least the nominator saw fit to wait — until the convention and the floor was open for nominations. This may not have been the best way but at least someone else could be nominated without the nominator feeling disloyal. Somehow the phrase "the Spirit led me" is weakened in such a process as we now have. But if we are going to do long range nominations, why stop at six or seven months? In raising the prophetic telescope, perhaps we

can fine tune it to see the election of Tom Eliff in 1996, Jack Graham of Dallas in 1998, Ronnie Floyd of Arkansas in 2000, and James Merritt of Georgia in 2002.

Now these are all good men but they deserve a better system of being chosen than the present method. We still have O.S. Hawkins of Dallas, Fred Wolfe of Alabama, Ike Reighard and Johnny Hunt of Atlanta, and a dozen others. They also are good men worthy of an opportunity to at least be nominated.

Recently a nomination was made for an individual to be president of a state convention. The nomination was made in January; the convention will be in November. Ten months should be adequate time to polarize the state and promote a divisive convention. Let it be repeated, the men are fine; the system could stand some improvement.

Race relations ideas sought for "Bridges to the Heart"

NASHVILLE — A book of people's comments on racial reconciliation is being undertaken by Art Toalston, editor of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Ronald Packnett, editor of *The National Baptist Voice*, published by the National Baptist Convention, USA, and pastor of historic Central Church in St. Louis, Mo.

Tentatively titled *Bridges to the Heart*, the book will consist of comments and reflections on racial reconciliation "by anyone and everyone who has something on his or her heart to share," said Toalston, of Nashville.

Packnett said: "Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, on the occasion of the nation's bicentennial, declared, 'You can legislate legal change, but laws don't build bridges to the heart.' We must direct our attention toward building those 'bridges to the heart.' We are all connected, yet we build barriers. We need to touch each other in places that count, with things that matter — issues of the heart!"

Packnett recounted that W.E.B. DuBois predicted in 1903 the major problem of the 20th century would be that of the "color line." Packnett continued: "A few months ago in a lecture at a prominent university, historian John Hope Franklin shared this prediction: The 'color line' would be the major problem of the 21st century.

The more things change, the more they remain the same."

"More than ever," Toalston said, "race relations must be a crucial part of our national dialogue. The question all of America faces is: What actions are we going to take to make sure the problems of the 20th century aren't copied over into the 21st century?"

Toalston and Packnett said they hope the book will give people a chance to share with each other their struggles and successes in overcoming racism — and how they can help reduce the prejudices today's children may carry into their lives.

The writers listed two areas in which to give comment or reflection:

1) "A key experience that has helped you in the area of racial reconciliation — perhaps an encounter, a conversation, or a friendship with a person of another race that made a difference in your racial attitudes. Give specifics of how it has changed your thinking and your actions."

2) "Any specific action(s) you take, or have taken, or have tried to take in your day-to-day world to ease racial tensions. (Perhaps at work or in your neighborhood, or with your kids at school, or even in trips to the store.) Or, for parents, ways you have tried to teach your children positive racial attitudes."

Each response should be brief,

the authors said. "Jotting out just a few sentences on either or both themes — something from your heart — would be fine," Toalston said.

Comments and reflections should be mailed by June 1 to Toalston/Packnett at 901 Commerce St. #750, Nashville, TN 37203. FAX (615) 254-0779; e-mail to BAPT PRESS at America Online. Each person should include his or her telephone number for further contact if needed.

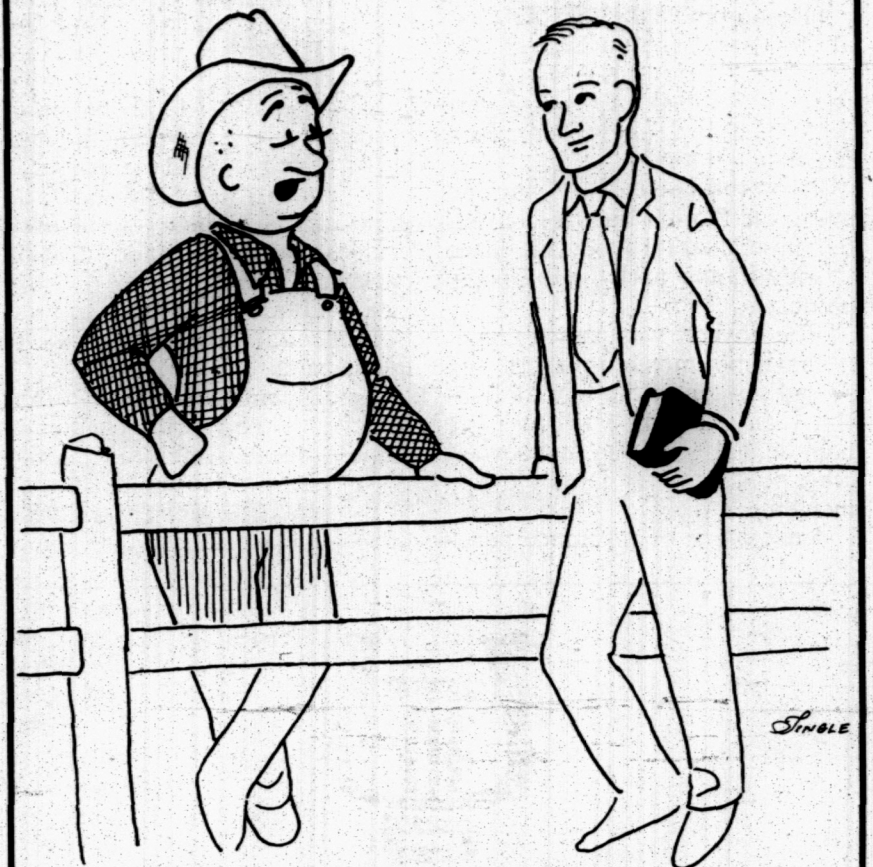
Reflections selected for the book will include the person's name and city, the authors said, unless it is stipulated that the comments should be used anonymously.

Packnett is a Chicago native and Yale University master of divinity graduate. The church he leads, Central Church in St. Louis, is celebrating its sesquicentennial. Packnett has been inducted into the Morehouse College International Board of Preachers and is an adjunct faculty member in the theological studies department of St. Louis University.

Toalston, a member of First Church, Nashville, is a native of northeastern Ohio and formerly was a religion writer at the Jackson (Miss.) *Clarion-Ledger*, and staff writer at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

For further information, contact Art Toalston at (615) 244-2355.

"PREACHERS ARE LIKE FERTILIZER — IN A PILE THEY AIN'T WORTH MUCH. BUT SPREAD 'EM AROUND AND THEY DO A LOT OF GOOD."



Thanks to Harvey Tingle, pastor of Eastside Church, Magee, for providing this week's cartoon.

THE FRAGMENTS

Christian education

It is interesting to meet a missionary and hear him say, "I graduated from..." — Blue Mountain, Mississippi College, or William Carey College.

Mississippi Baptists will support Christian education as evidenced by the sacrifice and giving of 150 years. We need the missionaries, preachers, yes; but we also need the Christian business leaders, doctors, teachers, and other professionals. Education has never been cheap, but ignorance is

far more expensive.

Our colleges need endowments and gifts; even more, they need the good will of our people. Students must be encouraged to be part of distinctive education at every level.

"God has given us memory that we might have roses in December," said James Barrie. When the winter is bleak and the days are barren, what we have done for Christian education will continue to bloom. — GH

Observe Volunteers in Missions Sunday

Feb. 25, 1996, is one of the most significant days in Southern Baptist life — a traditional time to recognize many laypersons involved in volunteer mission projects and ministries.

Your church can recognize mission volunteers in various ways:

- the pastor may preach on volunteerism
- recognize participants in volunteer missions
- share testimonies on mission experiences
- pray for mission volunteers
- present mission projects for 1996
- develop mission bulletin boards and displays in the church

In 1995 approximately 7,000 Mississippi Baptists participated in mission projects around the world. We left our mission-minded imprint on 27 foreign mission fields and 42 state conventions. As mission volunteers it is our intent "To help win Mississippi and our world to Jesus."

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The kingdom Walt built...

Mississippi Baptists asked to reconsider Disney plans, purchases

Homosexuals have begun to publicly promote the "Sixth Annual Gay and Lesbian Day at The Magical Kingdom That Walt Built," scheduled for May 30-June 3, 1996, at the Disney Theme Park in Orlando, Florida.

In response to the planned event, the Florida Baptist Convention has called for a boycott of the Disney theme parks and Disney products.

The boycott was passed unanimously by messengers to the annual session of the Florida Baptist Convention to protest the homosexual gathering and several other policies of the Disney Corp., including:

- extension of insurance bene-

fits to live-in partners of homosexual employees (excluding the unmarried partners of heterosexual employees),

- production and distribution of objectionable feature-length films by Disney-controlled companies,

- promotion of alcohol and gambling on Disney-sponsored cruises and theme park vacation packages,

- and allowing the annual homosexual celebrations in its theme parks.

According to David Caton, director of the Florida chapter of Tupelo-based American Family Association (AFA), last year's homosexual event in Orlando drew approximately 8,000 homo-

By Paul G. Jones II

sexuals for the 3 p.m. daily parade on Disney's Main Street. This prevented children from seeing the parade.

In addition, the homosexuals sang, "If you're gay and you know it, clap your hands. If you're gay and you know it, stomp your feet..."

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) urges members and churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to reconsider support of any Disney business enterprise, and to prayerfully consider whether to purchase Disney-related products and services of any kind.

For more information, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

(Compiled from AFA press reports.)

Jones is CAC executive director.

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Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference

March 7-8, 1996

First Baptist Church, Natchez, Miss.
150 D'Evereaux Drive (601) 442-1464

Thursday, March 7

9:00 a.m.	Registration
10:00 a.m.	Churchmen Handbell Rehearsal (Choir Room)
12 noon	Churchmen Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
1:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own
1:20 p.m.	Welcome
2 p.m.	"What Has Worked for Us in Worship Planning"
2:15 p.m.	Break
3 p.m.	New Music Reading Sessions
3:15 p.m.	Refreshments and exhibit break
4 p.m.	Blue Mountain Concert Choir
	Keyboard Tract
	Ministering Tract
4:45 p.m.	Afternoon session concludes
5:45 p.m.	Banquet
6:45 p.m.	Adjourn for concert
7:15 p.m.	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
	Churchmen Handbells

Friday, March 8

8:00 a.m.	Donuts and coffee
8:30 a.m.	Moments with the Master
8:45 a.m.	Scripture reading and prayer
8:50 a.m.	Favorite anthem reading session
9:50 a.m.	Break
10:00 a.m.	Business session
10:30 a.m.	Linda McKechnie Concert
11:30 a.m.	Closing prayer and adjournment

Church Music Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
(800) 748-1651 or (601) 968-3800

Chuck Kelley nominated as NOBTS' 8th president

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Charles S. "Chuck" Kelley Jr., a New Orleans Seminary evangelism professor, has been nominated for president of the seminary. Trustees will meet on campus Feb. 22-23 to vote on the selection, according to Morris Anderson, chairman of the trustee presidential search committee.

Kelley, if elected, would be the eighth president of the 80-year-old seminary, the nation's third-largest, and would succeed Landrum P. Leavell II, who was president for 20 years until his retirement at the end of 1994.

The 12-member search committee reached a unanimous decision on Kelley in a meeting Feb. 6, said Anderson, pastor of First Church, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

"I am excited about Dr. Kelley," Anderson told Baptist Press. "He's a scholar, without question, a church growth practitioner and has preached all over the world."

The rest of the 40-member trustee board was notified Feb. 8 by special mail of the Feb. 22-23 called trustee meeting. Anderson, who also is vice chairman of the NOBTS board of trustees, said trustees would meet with Kelley Feb. 22, followed by a short session on Feb. 23 and then the vote. Because Kelley is familiar to trustees, the sessions will probably not be long, Anderson said.

According to sources on the campus, Kelley's nomination will be popular with students, faculty, and staff.

Kelley, 43, has been director of the seminary's Center of Evangelism and Church Growth and chairman of the seminary's largest division, pastoral ministries, since 1993 as well as the Roland Q. Leavell Professor of Evangelism since 1983. He was the seminary's director of field education from 1983-93. He also has been director and an itinerant evangelist with Innovative Evan-

gelism Inc., since 1975.

A much-requested public speaker throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, Kelley is recognized widely both for his evangelistic preaching and for his research in the area of "baby boomers" and "baby busters."

Kelley

A native of Beaumont, Texas, Kelley received his theological doctorate in preaching from New Orleans Seminary in

1983, a master's degree in biblical studies in 1978, also from the seminary, and a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, in 1974.

Kelley is the author of *How Did They Do It? The Story of Southern Baptist Evangelism* and four other books and writer of numerous evangelism training materials, including *The Roman Road tract*, teacher's guide, learner's guide, and training video produced by the SBC Home Mission Board and used throughout the SBC during the 1995 "Here's Hope" nationwide evangelism campaign.



Healing ministry

"We want people to know that we're here because of the Lord — not just to give pills away," said home missionary Yolanda Barraza, associate director of the El Paso Medical Clinic at Del Centro Church in El Paso. "It's not anything else but to give a witness," she stressed. To read Yolanda's story in a special pull-out section on home missions, please turn to page 7. (HMB Photo by Joe Westbury)



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My fiance' can't seem to stay away from his old girlfriend. Will he change after we get married?

Probably not. If he can have it all, he'll go for it. Simply getting married will not make everything better. A red flag is waving in front of your face, and now is the time to do something about this behavior. Talk with your fiance'. If he understands you are serious about stopping this, it may serve as a wake-up call and prompt him to change. If he becomes defensive and doesn't heed your concerns, move away and move on. That is strong, but my professional experience leads me to believe that if a person is unwilling to fully commit to another during engagement, the marriage won't last in the long haul. However, if he is willing to work out this problem with you, begin Christian premarital counseling. If the marriage date is soon, postpone it and get this settled. Your marriage is worth the investment.

How can I protect my chil-

dren from the cultural vulgarity that surrounds them?

One of the reasons cultural vulgarity is increasing is due to withdrawal of parental influence. You won't be able to eliminate the vulgarity, but your handling of it, coupled with involvement in what your children see and hear, will provide them with the needed protection. How do you handle vulgarity? If you overreact, you create more interest in it for your children. If you interact with your children when confronted by vulgarity, you can teach them that they have a choice and help them make wise decisions as they mature. Our children are taking in the world with all their senses — and there's a lot of vulgarity out there. How much time do you spend discussing and praying with your children about such issues? Are you walking beside them as they grow? They need you more than anyone else in their lives; if you pull away, they will find someone or something to fill the void.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

HMB taps Brazilian couple with foreign agency affiliation

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — A Brazilian couple working among Portuguese-speaking people in New York City are the first home missionaries jointly appointed by the Home Mission Board (HMB) and Baptists in another country.

Sebastian Baptista and his wife, Ieda, were appointed Feb. 6 by the HMB executive committee. They also serve with the Brazilian Baptist Convention's World Mission Board. They are financially supported by Brazil's World Mission Board, the HMB, and the Baptist Convention of New York.

The HMB executive committee also discussed the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) restructuring, noted highlights from last year, elected two men to staff positions, appointed two other missionaries, and learned of 23 chaplain endorsements.

The HMB is considering joint appointments with Baptist groups in Korea, Romania, Argentina, and other countries, said Russell Begaye, HMB director of language church starting.

The proposed SBC restructuring involves reducing the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12. It would eliminate the HMB and

Brotherhood and Radio and Television commissions and create a North American Mission Board in their place. The three agencies to be dissolved have each created a transition committee. The chairmen of those committees, chairmen of each agency's board of trustees, and presidents of the agencies have formed a coordinating committee.

Larry Lewis, HMB president, called last year a "hallelujah year any way you look at it." He noted the celebration of the board's 150th anniversary, success of Southern Baptists' first simultaneous personal witnessing effort, moving to the new HMB headquarters, starting more than 1,300 churches, and setting a record in gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

The only decrease Lewis noted was a 2% drop in Cooperative Program gifts compared to 1994. The Cooperative Program provides 35% of the HMB's income.

The executive committee also elected Tennessee native James Thompson as a financial analyst in church loans and South Carolina native David Putman as project development director in new church extension.

Volunteers being recruited for Crossover New Orleans effort

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Volunteers for the June 8 witnessing blitz before this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting should sign up by May 1, said Crossover New Orleans organizers.

People who do not meet the May 1 deadline can participate, but early registration gives leaders time to match volunteers' interests with local church needs, said Don Smith of the Home Mission Board evangelism staff.

Greater New Orleans Baptist Association covers five parishes, or counties, with 1.2 million people, said associational missionary Fred Dyess. Only 3% of residents are Southern Baptists. Currently the association has more missions (83) than constituted churches (65). Only 29 of the churches have more than 100 in Sunday School, and none of them have 1,000 in Sunday school, Dyess said.

With so many new and small congregations, Crossover New Orleans "could really be a boost" to

area churches, said Louisiana Baptists' evangelism director Wayne Jenkins.

The pre-convention evangelism thrust began in 1989 and has grown to include block parties, door-to-door witnessing, and street evangelism. Each activity is designed to present the gospel and discover prospects for local churches.

During block parties, churches offer free food and entertainment to attract local residents. Door-to-door activities involve teams of two asking residents about their religious beliefs and sharing the plan of salvation. Street evangelism includes performers such as chalk artists and puppet teams who share the gospel through their art. Dyess noted New Orleans is especially suited to street evangelism because sidewalk artists are popular there.

This year volunteers are sought for a prison ministry as well, Jenkins said. Volunteers will go to a women's prison and a

youth facility to visit inmates in their cells. Baptists have established ministries in the places to be visited, and Crossover activities will undergird those ministries, Jenkins said.

Southern Baptists can participate as individuals, a group from one church or a group from several churches, Jenkins said. Participating in Crossover New Orleans would be an inexpensive, short mission trip for people who could not be involved in a longer project, Jenkins noted.

Goals for Crossover New Orleans include evangelism, witness training, and church starting.

Most Crossover New Orleans events will take place Saturday, June 8, with volunteer training on Friday, June 7. To register, write the Louisiana Baptist Convention evangelism office, P.O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309-0311. Include your name, address, phone number, church name, and how you would like to participate.

BSSB trustees vote to launch conference center capital drive

NASHVILLE (BP) — Trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board authorized a capital campaign to raise funds for Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) conference centers, pending approval by the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Executive Committee during its Feb. 19-21 meeting.

The recommendation to proceed with a fund-raising effort was approved during the agency's trustee meeting in Nashville, Feb. 5-7, based on a feasibility study, development of program and facilities plans, development of a campaign plan, and check-up interviews. Also, a blue-ribbon campaign advisory committee of trustees, pastors, laypersons, and others developed a mission statement for the conference centers.

If the request to conduct a campaign is approved by the Executive Committee, the campaign, with a goal of at least \$20 million, will begin in March and continue through July 1997. Targeted to a limited number of about 500 donors able to make large gifts, the effort will not seek funds from churches or from personal resources that otherwise would be given to a local church or the Cooperative Program.

Resources obtained through the campaign would provide for needed repairs, upgrading and construction of new facilities required to serve current and future conference center guests into the 21st century, according to T. Michael Arrington, executive director of corporate affairs for the board.

Glorieta and Ridgecrest have histories as places where people have made life-changing spiritual decisions, BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. said, as well as places to receive training for service. He noted that of the 1.8 mil-

lion people who have attended the centers during the past 15 years, thousands of today's influential missionaries, pastors, denomina-

tional leaders, and laypersons can point back to an experience at Glorieta or Ridgecrest as a spiritual turning point.

Ice storm postpones youth choir auditions across state

Three All-State Youth Choir Auditions have been re-scheduled due to the Feb. 1 ice storm that hit the state, according to Susan Clark, youth music/drama contract consultant with the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The audition originally scheduled for Feb. 3 at University Church, Hattiesburg, will be held 3-6 p.m. Feb. 24 at that church.

The audition originally scheduled for Feb. 1 at First Church, Biloxi, will be held March 5 at that church, from 5-8 p.m.

The audition scheduled for Feb. 2 at Central Church, McComb, has

been relocated to First Church, Summit, and will be held March 8, 5-8 p.m.

Those who were previously registered for the original audition dates and sites have been automatically registered for the new sites, unless the Church Music Department otherwise receives notification.

There are still registrations available for these three audition sites.

For more information, contact Clark at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800; or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

1996 starts with a bang

After a record year of Cooperative Program (CP) giving in 1995, Mississippi Baptists began 1996 with a record month, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

January gifts through the Cooperative Program totaled \$2,585,166, which was \$164,242 more than the previous record month of January 1992, with \$2,421,924.

Giving by the nearly 2,000 Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi in 1995 totaled \$23,216,436, which was \$741,817 more than 1994 giving of \$22,474,619.

The Mississippi CP budget is set each year by messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The gifts are used for church leader training, Christian higher education, and child care. A total of 37% of all dollars given through Mississippi Baptist churches goes to Southern Baptists causes outside the state, such as home and foreign missions.

Many legislative bills die in committee; others bear watching

By Paul G. Jones II and Elizabeth K. Holmes

Most of the 1996 legislative bills being tracked by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) have died in committees, indicating that people across the state have communicated their concerns to legislators and, in most cases, the concerns have been heeded.

The following bills are still alive in the 1996 Mississippi Legislature, having been passed out of committee or, if it is a revenue bill, operating on a different deadline.

Any bill number followed by (CS) is a committee-substituted version that differs from the original bill. Revenue bills are followed by (R).

Abortion

Senate Bill (SB) 2817(CS) requires the Mississippi State Department of Health to enforce abortion informed consent laws.

Alcohol

House Bill (HB) 86(CS) authorizes "brew pubs" — a restaurant that manufactures a limited amount of beer in the restaurant for exclusive consumption in the place of business.

HB 149(CS) revises the grounds for suspension of a driver's license for conviction of driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI).

This bill is in response to some public officials involved in alleged alcohol-related traffic accidents who refused

both breath and blood alcohol tests.

HB 427(CS) requires the posting of a health-related alcohol warning sign where alcohol is sold.

The sign would read: "Warning! Drinking wine, beer, or other alcoholic beverages during pregnancy can cause birth defects."

HB 486 is a specialized bill that applies exclusively to food manufacturers who use alcoholic beverages in cooking and processing of food items.

HB 785(R) increases the excise tax on alcoholic beverages, light beer and wine, and cigarettes. The bill directs that these taxes be expended by Medicaid Division on the medically needy.

SB 2213(CS) lowers the DUI blood alcohol content (BAC) for drivers under

age 21 from .10 BAC to .02 BAC.

Church and state

HB 322 permits the use, reading, or posting of historical or legal documents containing religious references in public schools.

Criminal justice

SB 2571(CS) establishes the "Mississippi Streetgang Act" and allows civil action against street gangs and individual members of gangs.

SB 2794(CS) is a special bill that arose from the Select Committee on Juvenile Justice, appointed by the Lt. Governor to address the problems of children and youths in the state.

The bill provides for a study of the need for one state agency to coordinate and direct most of the children and

youth programs presently scattered throughout state government.

Education

HB 31(CS) requires criminal background checks for public school teacher applicants and prohibits convicted felons from teaching in public schools.

SB 2537(CS) creates the "School Personnel Criminal History Verification Act," requiring sex offense and criminal history of all school personnel.

Family

HB 123(R) provides a \$5,000 income tax credit for adoption of a child.

HB 1163 amends state law to provide additional victim assistance coordinators in 13 of the state's circuit court districts.

SB 2189 permits removal of parental rights in cases of sex abuse.

Gambling

HB 75(CS) permits employment of convicted felons in any aspect of a casino operation, seven years after conviction, unless denied by the executive director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission.

HB 521(CS) permits state colleges and universities to teach courses in casino management, auditing, and security as part of a general business degree, as well as courses in related casino activities of hotel and motel

management, food and beverage management, accounting, security, hospitality, cage and count operations, and slot machine management.

This is identical to the Nevada statute, except that "how to gamble" courses will not be permitted.

HB 1131(CS) implements a problem gambler prevention/treatment program in the Mississippi State Mental Health Department.

One-third of the funding will come from fines levied by the State Gaming Commission; one-third from casinos; and one-third from businesses that supply casinos.

Obscenity

SB 2495 authorizes certain additional counties (primarily Lowndes County) to adopt ordinances regulating massage parlors and public displays of nudity.

State senators and representatives can be reached during the session at P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205-1018. Telephone: (601) 359-3770.

For more information, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Jones is executive director, CAC. Holmes is CAC consultant for family and women's issues.

House approves vouchers in D.C. budget measure

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Taxpayers could foot the bill for scholarships to private and parochial schools in the District of Columbia under a funding measure approved by the U.S. House of Representatives Jan. 31.

On a 211-201 vote, lawmakers approved a House-Senate conference report that provides \$4.99 billion in D.C. funding for fiscal 1996. It also contains a compromise on a controversial voucher proposal pushed by Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt. The Senate has yet to act on the conference report.

Under the plan, up to \$5 million could be used for two types of scholarships to help poor students pay for tuition in private schools.

One type would pay for the tuition, transportation, and mandatory fees to attend an "eligible" institution, including private and parochial schools.

A second "enhanced achievement" scholarship would be used for non-sectarian programs that operate outside of regular school hours to help students who are having trouble academically.

Opponents of the bill's private and parochial school provisions complained that House and Senate conferees were not given time to weigh the proposal before being forced to vote on it.

On the floor, opponents said the bill would be used as a national precedent for private school funding. "We are then going to see organizations with an ideological agenda who will begin to pressure each and every school district in the country to follow the same model," said Rep. David Obey, D-Wis.

Opponents also argued the vouchers would help only a limited number of students and those primarily at religious schools.

Cyberporn battle moves to court after president signs legislation

WASHINGTON (BP) — Anti-pornography organizations rejoiced at President Clinton's signing of a telecommunications reform bill, while the ACLU immediately went to court in an attempt to halt a controversial cyberporn provision in the legislation.

The president signed into law Feb. 8 the Telecommunications Reform Act, which, among other effects, will open the door for more competition among telephone companies and within the cable television industry.

Included in the new law is a provision which prohibits the distribution through on-line computer

services of indecent material to minors. Those found guilty of knowingly disseminating pornography may be imprisoned for a maximum of two years and forced to pay a fine.

The legislation would apply whether the material was sent directly to a minor or displayed in a manner available to a minor.

Under the legislation, on-line services and access providers are not held liable for providing access to systems or networks over which they have no control.

The ACLU and 19 others filed suit in a Philadelphia federal court within hours after the president signed the bill. The suit argued the cyberporn provision violates the First Amendment's protection of expression and asked for a temporary restraining order against that portion of the law.

Joining the ACLU in the suit were Planned Parenthood Federation of America and some journalism and electronic communications organizations.

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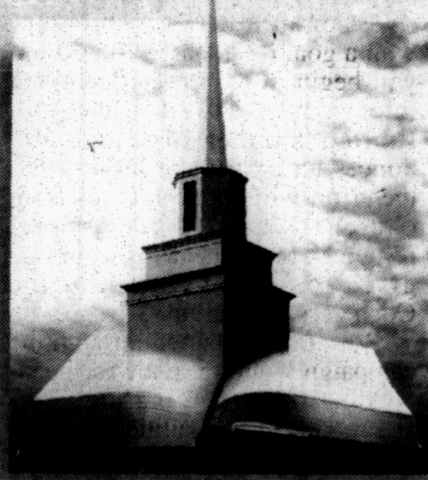
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PEOPLE COUNT

1996 Season of Home Missions

Home Mission Study

Feb. 18-21

Week of Prayer for Home Missions

March 3-10

"People Count" is theme for '96 Season of Home Missions

By David Winfrey

This year's theme for the Season of Home Missions can be traced to the desk of former Home Mission Board (HMB) President Arthur Rutledge.

Rutledge was at a bank when he noticed a paperweight reading "People Count," according to Ruth McKinney, former executive secretary to the president.

He made a comment to a bank employee, who located and gave one of the paperweights to Rutledge. He kept it on his desk for all to see.

The book *The Rutledge Era* quotes the president as saying, "It sits there as a reminder to me.... Unless everything I do, somewhere or other, contributes to touching people for Christ, then it doesn't have real value."

The "People Count" paperweight didn't exclusively target the lost, adds McKinney. It referred to anyone, she said, including home missionaries and Southern Baptists calling for information.

Today, the HMB helps Southern Baptists tell people they count through church starting, evangelism, and ministry.

Last year, HMB President Larry Lewis reminded a home missions week conference, "We have to ask continually, 'Do I really care about the unsaved?'"

Throughout America, 440 counties still have no Southern Baptist church.

While Bold Mission Thrust goals include having 50,000 congregations by the year 2000, Lewis noted that is not Southern Baptists' primary aim. "Our goal is to evangelize America."

Darrell Robinson, HMB vice president for evangelism, lauds the People Count theme to help promote personal evangelism.

"Because people count, the evangelism section has developed People Sharing Jesus, a Christ-centered, person centered approach to witnessing," he said.

That witnessing plan helps believers see people as God sees them and shows how to apply the love of Christ to a person's greatest need, Robinson said.

"People count with Jesus and they count with those who are walking with Jesus," he pointed out.

People also count because they are important to Christian ministries, said Don Hammonds, HMB interim vice president of ministry.

"People count because God loves them," Hammonds said. "People count because we need them. We need for them to share the gifts God has given them. The

gifts of creativity, caring relationships and concern for others."

Chaplains, who are endorsed through the HMB, are the feature of this year's home missions study.

Chaplains demonstrate that people count by ministering to all kinds of people, said Huey Perry, HMB chaplaincy division director.

Chaplains' workplaces include high-security prisons, hospital psychiatric wards, crime scenes, and military bases, Perry noted.

"Jesus had contact with people who were outcasts," he said. "We show people count because we are where they are."

"Chaplains go where the church cannot and sometimes will not go. We go because we've been commanded to go. We're not fulfilling the Great Commission if we're not willing to go," Perry said.

Winfrey writes for the HMB.

Native Texans find "home" in Montana

By Teresa Dickens

GARDINER, Mont. — Fisherman's heaven. Hunter's paradise. Big Sky Country.

These are just a few of the ways Montana is described by people who have discovered the natural beauty and resources of the United States' 41st state, but if Joe and Cindy Boney are asked to describe Montana, these native Texans call it "home" and one of the nation's most challenging mission fields.

The Boneys know these attributes of Montana because they have served there through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for nine of the past 11 years.

The couple is among the home missionaries featured in this year's Week of Prayer for Home Missions, March 3-10.

Joe and Cindy surrendered to God's call to missions in August 1984 while members of South Georgia Church in Amarillo.

Five children between the ages of nine and four, and Joe's lack of a college and seminary education, limited their options for missionary service.

The quickest way to the mission field, they were told, was serving in a bivocational role through the HMB's Mission Service Corp.

The first assignment offered to the Boneys was one in the northeast United States. In the midst of



Home missions at work

John Spencer (second from right), home missionary and pastor of Canton Church and Neighborhood Center in Baltimore, is a familiar sight around the neighborhood where he lives and works. Spencer's son, Cameron (second from left) often accompanies his father on neighborhood visits. Since his appointment in 1988, Spencer has led the 87-year-old mission congregation to become a fully constituted church. (HMB photo by Laura Sikes)

the negotiations on that assignment, the Boneys received word of another assignment in Billings, Mont.

Although they knew a great deal about the assignment in the northeast and very little about the opportunity in Montana, the couple sensed that Montana was where they belonged.

So, in June 1985, the Boney family moved to Billings where he served as associate pastor of Bethel Baptist Church.

In August 1989, the family moved to New Orleans where Joe earned an associate of divinity degree at New Orleans Seminary.

Joe was pastor of Bogue Falaya Baptist Church in Folsom, La., while a student.

After graduating in May 1991, the Boneys returned to western Montana where he was a church planter with the Home Mission Board in Thompson Falls.

Last summer, the couple and their youngest daughter, Heather, moved to the Montana border of the Yellowstone National Park where he serves as pastor of Gardiner Baptist Mission.

"Montana is our home," declared Joe. "Leaving Montana to attend seminary helped us know that. All of us were homesick the entire time we were in New Orleans."

"Baptist work in Montana is slow," Joe commented. "Relationship is very important to the peo-

ple; therefore, one-on-one ministry is absolutely necessary.

"That is what 'People Count' means to me," he continued, "ministering one-on-one."

Dickens writes for WMU and is a former staff member of *The Baptist Record*.



Joe and Cindy Boney huddle together for warmth in front of Gardiner Mission near Yellowstone National Park in Montana. Joe accepted the pastorate of the mission after serving since 1985 as a Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer. (Photo by Mark Sandlin)

The Top Ten:

1995 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

1.	Texas	\$5,581,016
2.	N. Carolina	4,334,950
3.	Georgia	3,654,230
4.	Alabama	3,560,522
5.	Tennessee	2,874,625
6.	S. Carolina	2,626,260
7.	Mississippi	2,414,354
8.	Florida	2,009,069
9.	Virginia	1,894,008
10.	Missouri	1,403,053

Total 1995 Offering: \$38,908,339

As of December 31, 1995

Source: Southern Baptist Home Mission Board

Home Missions

Home Missions Day in Sunday School
March 10

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

National Goal: \$42,000,000

PEOPLE COUNT



Seferino Martinez (center), holding son Freddie, stands on the foundation of a church building project in Hennessey, Okla., with two unidentified members of First Church, Hennessey, which sponsors the Hispanic mission. Home missionary Ramon Aleman, an Oklahoma church starter, requested prayer for the mission construction last year when he was featured in the Week of Prayer for Home Missions. "Everything came together like hand in glove," he said. (HMB photo by Paul Obregon)

Missionary clinic promotes spiritual, medical healing

By Teresa Dickens

EL PASO — People don't usually go to church when they're feeling their worst, but in El Paso that's exactly what draws them to Del Centro Baptist Church.

In one small room a young girl complains about pain in her lower abdomen, while in another room a child is immunized against hepatitis.

Across the hall a member of the church's Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) sterilizes medical instruments, and in another room a doctor dispenses medicine for a woman with migraine headaches.

It's Saturday morning at the inner-city church and its medical clinic is going full steam.

A hundred ailing individuals fidget in metal chairs in the crowded fellowship hall, waiting to be assigned a physician.

Southern Baptist home missionary Yolanda Barraza serves as mediator between the two worlds — that of the sick on one side of the wall and the medical volunteers of the El Paso Medical Clinic on the other.

"The people do not come for the Christian witness; they come for the pills," acknowledged Barraza, associate director of the clinic. "But in the scheme of things they receive that witness and stumble onto the gospel in the process."

Barraza, who grew up in El Paso and once had family living in the neighborhood where she now serves, is among the home missionaries featured in this year's Week of Prayer for Home Missions, March 3-10.

Serving through the Home

Mission Board's Church and Community Ministries Department, she now pursues a nursing degree while working at the clinic.

Barraza described her role at the clinic as one of "floating."

"What I call 'floating' is just trying to direct problems away from Mrs. Poe (director of the clinic)," she explained. "There's some stuff that I am able to steer in another direction and that's what I try to do."

Barraza's "floating" may call on her to do a variety of things, such as interpret for one of the medical personnel on duty or check with the pharmacy about the availability of a medicine.

"Our postal zip code — 79901 — is recognized as the fifth poorest zip code area in the nation," Barraza said. "Many of these families have only two rooms and sleep on the floor."

Helping patients find spiritual healing is the ultimate goal of the clinic, Yolanda said.

"This is a great place for a church and clinic. Our WMU members go into the city park across the street and invite the people to the church parking lot for coffee and sweet rolls. That gives them the opportunity to hand out tracts and begin witnessing one-on-one," she said.

"We want people to know that we're here because of the Lord — not just to give pills away," she said. "It's not anything else but to give a witness."

Dickens writes for WMU and is a former staff member of *The Baptist Record*.

Mississippi support helps missionaries win lost on America's own mission field

By Sarah Zimmerman

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — While the Season of Home Missions is a time to raise money — this year's goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$42 million — it is also time to increase the kind of support that money can't buy.

During the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, Southern Baptists are asked to pray for home missionaries whose specific prayer requests are highlighted in everything from bulletin inserts to videos.

Bill Sims, evangelism consultant in California who specializes in block parties, said last year was the best of his ministry.

"I saw 800 professions of faith, and a lot of it was a result of having the resources," he reported.

Sims requested prayer that he would receive English and Spanish marked New Testaments, which he uses to share the gospel.

"Thousands of New Testaments came in from all over the country. I couldn't believe it. I didn't count them, but my 'guesstimate' is that we received more than 10,000 New Testaments."

Sims said a Mississippi church, Tate Church in Corinth, sent 800 New Testaments.

"We had 300 people saved as a result of those," he said.

Greg Warnock, Tate Church pastor, said the children's choir,

along with the Royal Ambassadors (RA) and Girls in Action (GA) groups, presented a musical entitled "Back Yard Bunch."

A love offering was taken at the end of the musical, and the money was used to buy the New Testaments.

"We have received letters from several of the children who got the New Testaments and accepted Christ," Warnock said.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think so many people would be praying for me on the same day," said Richard Harris, associational missionary in Wheeling, W.Va.

"We got letters from people all over the country. We would feel a whole lot more alone without that. Now we know we're not forgotten," he said.

Harris and other missionaries said they received encouragement and saw prayers answered as a result of being featured in last year's Week of Prayer.

Harris requested prayer for new congregations and stronger churches in the Upper Ohio Valley Association.

The association started one congregation, and two churches had more than 100 in Sunday School for the first time.

Each of the 12 associational churches reported at least two bap-

tisms last year, he said, and the total number of baptisms was more than 100.

Ramon Aleman, Oklahoma church starter, asked Southern Baptists to pray for resources needed to construct a Hispanic church building in Hennessey, Okla.

The church received a loan from the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma, and the concrete was poured in November.

"Everything came together like hand in glove," said Aleman, who is now looking for volunteer construction teams.

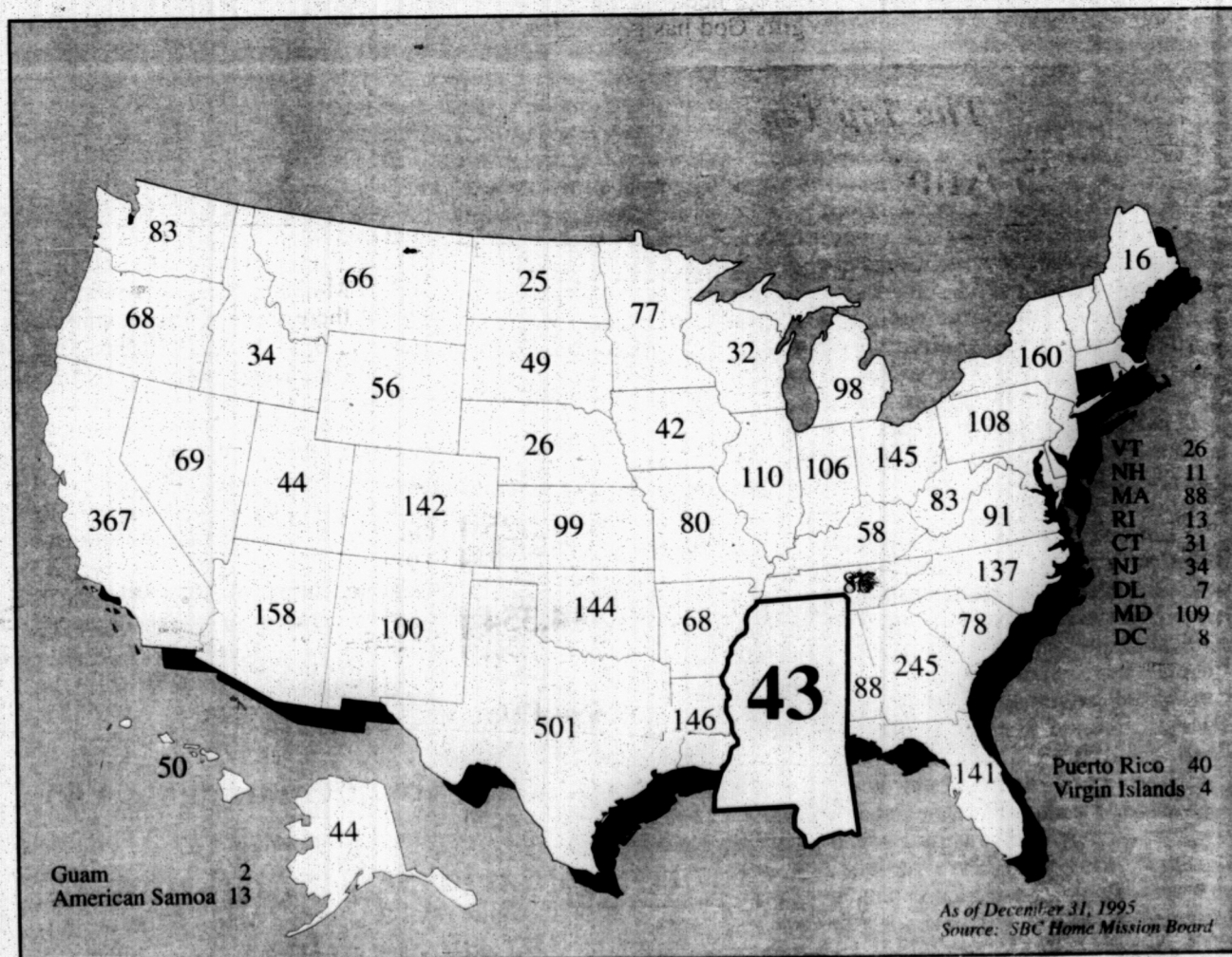
Dub Bryant, evangelism director in Montana, asked Baptists to pray for spring revivals there.

He was overwhelmed with the support from fellow Southern Baptists during the Week of Prayer.

"You wouldn't believe the letters and phone calls and cards," he said. "One church sent us what looked like a roll of wide adding machine tape with at least 750 signatures on it."

Most of the mail included notes telling Bryant and his wife that people were praying for their specific requests rather than praying for all missionaries in general. "I didn't know that many people really cared about us as individuals," he said.

Zimmerman writes for the Home Mission Board.

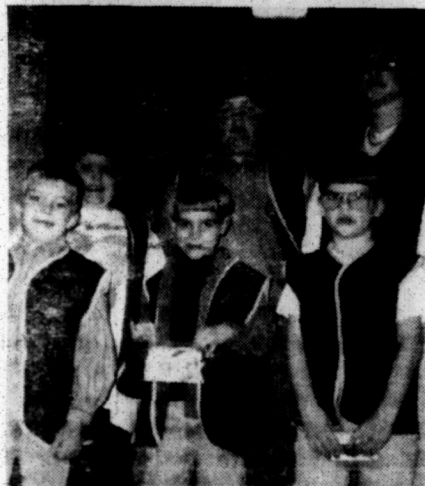


Just for the Record



Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia, held a recognition and welcoming ceremony on Nov. 12 for its RAs (below, left), GAs (below, right), and Mission Friends (above). The enrollment has gone from 11 in October 1994, to 25 in November 1995, and average attendance for this church year has been 21. All RAs received membership pins and patches. Todd Shepherd, Wade Pierce, and Derek Shannon received Squire 5, Lad 1, and Discoverer 1 patches respectively. Shanna Shepherd received her Adventures in Missions 1 patch.

Older preschool Mission Friends (from left) are: front row Johnnie Smith, leader, Laura Shannon, Haley Pierce; back row, Brandon Pierce, Joel Sistrunk; not pictured, Sabrina Bryan. Mission Friends Younger preschool, not pictured, were Dorothy Pierce, Linda Hardy, Judy Guess, leader, Reagan Pierce, Corey Pierce, and Kurt Shannon.



RAs (from left) are: front row, Brady Sistrunk, Tyler Pierce, Derek Shannon; back row, Wade Pierce, Todd Shepherd, Sylvia Shannon, leader; not pictured, Matt Bates and Kevin Lamb.

Rankin Association will hold its 14th annual Missions Banquet at First Church, Brandon, on Feb. 22, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will be the speaker. His wife will sing. All church leaders and their spouses are invited to attend. For more information, call (601) 939-2182.

Five William Carey College students' work has been chosen to compete in the Southern Literary Festival that will be held in Natchez in April. Ryan Arnett, Hattiesburg, will compete in the Informal Essay and Poetry categories. Leanne Bennett, Diamondhead; and Peter Smeal, Lucedale, will compete in the Short Story division. Leanne Smith, Laurel, will enter her work in the Formal Essay category. Valerie Lee, Petal, will compete in the poetry category. Price Carwell, of the Mississippi State University fac-



GAs (from left) are: front row, Shannon Shepherd, Brandi Bates; back row, Kristy Mayo, Sarah Skinner, Tammy Shepherd, leader; not pictured, Brook Winstead.

ulty, will judge the contest. The Southern Literary Festival encompasses southern states.

William Carey College Speech and Debate Team (Forensics) recently competed in the

Southwest Baptist University Invitational Tournament in Bolivar, Mo. Carey placed third overall in the tournament. Kansas State University won the event and the University of Oklahoma placed second. Cliff Burris, McComb; Robin McGehee, Jackson; John Miller, Columbia; Candace Cochran, Petal, Shenel Crockett, Jackson; Leanne Bennett, Diamondhead; and John Celoria, Bogue Chitto; won awards.

The Mississippi College Pool has received national recognition for its water fitness program, being ranked as the top college program in the nation by a national association promoting water exercise and fitness. The United States Water Fitness Association (USWFA) also ranked the program 18th nationally among all categories in the annual Top 100 Water Fitness Programs rankings. "It's a real feather in your cap to be named the top college program in the country," said John Spanuth, president and CEO of the Association. "It has become very prestigious to be ranked so highly."

Cato Church, Rankin County, will hold a lay renewal weekend Feb. 23-25. A fellowship will begin on Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, will sponsor a Health Fair on Feb. 24 from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. This Health Fair will launch the church's nursing ministry. Kara Blackard is pastor. For more information, call the church at (601) 287-2864.

A doctoral-level learning experience is being made available through Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Department of Pastoral Care and the Samaritan Counseling Center. A 36-hour doctor of ministry program with Atlanta's Columbia Theological Seminary began on Feb. 5.

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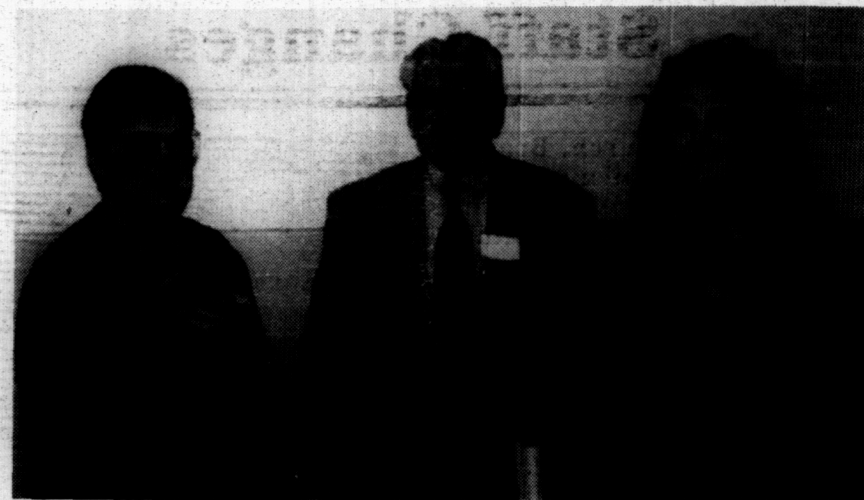
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Maggie Payne, assistant professor of nursing at William Carey College (left) and **Melissa Messner**, nursing student (right) welcome **Gerald Berenson**, researcher of "The Bogalusa Heart Study" (center); to the "Nursing for the Future" workshop held recently at Carey College.

"America's longest running, accredited D. Min. will be housed at our medical center," according to Paul Stephenson, director of Pastoral Care, Counseling, and Clinical Pastoral Education. Seminars are scheduled for the first Monday and Tuesday of each month.

First Church, Lucedale, is seeking to minister to all of Lucedale and George County with an ongoing prayer ministry. During the month of February, businesses are asked to display a poster showing the prayer ministry telephone line, (601) 947-4846. The public is asked to call in their requests. In addition, a business-sized card showing the number will be placed in some area businesses, doctor's offices,

and hospital. The prayer ministry at First Church involves 40 volunteers, each giving an hour one day each week to pray in the prayer room. Danny Von Kanel, minister of music and education, said: "The success of the church's prayer ministry can be accredited to the Lord." John Turner is pastor of First Church.

George Association recently held a People Sharing Jesus Conference. This program of learning to share your faith in a natural way was led by Jerry W. Mixon, pastor of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale. There were 10 pastors in attendance and 14 guests. John Henry, director of missions, presented each pastor with a free copy of the leaders' manual and the student book.



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Staff Changes

Thursday, February 15, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News

Antioch Church, Brandon (Rankin Association) has called **Kyle Cammack** of McComb as minister of youth and children, effective Feb. 4. He received his education at Mississippi College. Marion Spence is pastor.

First Church, Bruce, has called **Anna Cheatham** as minister of youth and children, effective Dec. 1. A native of Madison, she is a recent graduate of Mississippi State University, and served on the Centrifuge staff in 1995. Charles Nestor is pastor.

Mission Offerings

Under the leadership of **John G. McCall**, interim pastor, **Heucks Retreat Church**, Brookhaven, recently surpassed its goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The church set a goal of \$6,500, with an "All the Way in One Day" offering of \$7,547.70. The total offering for 1995 was \$7,667.70.

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Randle and Gloria Poss will be honored on Feb. 25 upon his retirement as pastor for 32 years at First Church, Maben. A special morning worship service of praise and appreciation will begin at 10:55 a.m. followed by a reception in the Family Life Center from 2-4 p.m. Just two years after accepting the call to Maben, he witnessed the church being engulfed by fire. Sixteen months after the fire, the congregation moved into a new sanctuary and educational building. During his pastorate, the church dedicated a new parsonage. A family life center was completed in 1979 and in 1990 an annex was added to the educational building. The Posses will continue to reside in Maben and attend First Church.

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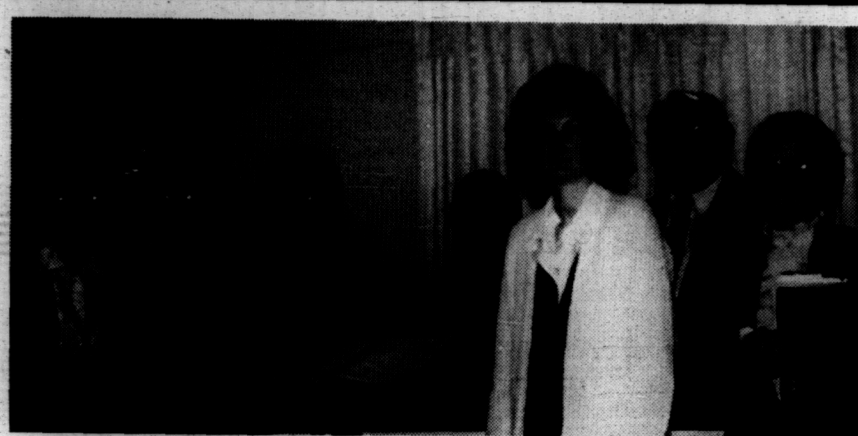
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COLEMAN, Texas — **Letha Myrtle Saunders**, a retired Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, died Feb. 4 in San Angelo, Texas. Born April 21, 1906, in Sterling City, Texas, Saunders was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board as a missionary to Brazil in 1938.

Elizabeth Walton of Jackson was named to the Dean's List for the 1995 Fall term at Florida Baptist Theological College, Graceville, Fla.

TAYLORS, S.C. — **Nan Trammell Herring**, a retired Foreign Mission Board missionary to China and Taiwan, died Jan. 28 at age 88. She and her late husband, J. Alexander Herring, worked in China from the time of their appointment in 1935 until communists came to power in 1949, and in Taiwan from 1957 to 1969. They retired in 1970. During wars and political instability overseas that interrupted their missionary career, the Herrings served churches in **Jackson**; **Culowhee, N.C.**; **Greenville, S.C.**; and **Moultrie, Ga.**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — **Daniel L. Akin** has been named vice president for academic administration and dean of the school of theology at Southern Seminary effective June 1. Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. announced his appointment of Akin, a professor and administrator at Southeastern Seminary, during a Feb. 6 chapel service at Southern Seminary's Louisville, Ky., campus. Akin has been dean of students and associate professor of theology at the Wake Forest,



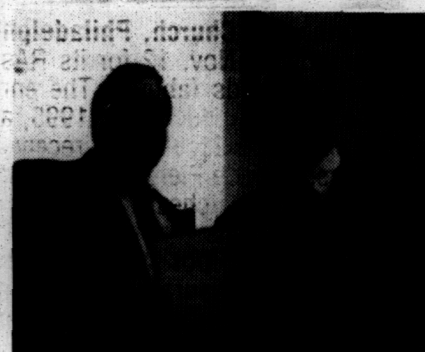
Members of Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto, who read through the entire Bible in 1995, are pictured above. They are (from left): front row, Katherine Evans, Ines Leonard, Marion Moss, Elsie Hart; back row, Thomas Thornton, Ellen Martin, Kathy Leonard, and Danny Moss, pastor. Not pictured are Lois Lightsey, Elsie Brown, Freddie Leonard, and Mary Thornton.

N.C., seminary since 1992. He previously taught at Criswell College in Dallas from 1986-92.

CHERRY GROVE, Ore. (BP) — **Mildred E. Lovegren**, a retired Foreign Mission Board missionary who worked in ministry to Chinese overseas for 41 years, died Feb. 6. She was 76. Lovegren was appointed to work in China in 1944 and lived one term there before the communist revolution. She worked the balance of her career in Hong Kong and nearby Macao, where she helped pioneer Southern Baptist mission work.

Karla Klyng of Vicksburg has been awarded the prestigious 1996 Kappa Delta Pi Ann Wilson Clark Memorial Scholarship at Mississippi College, the highest scholarship given by the Mississippi College School of Education. The scholarship is named for Ann Wilson Klyng Clark, a Neshoba County native who was a long-time Clinton resident who taught elementary education and guidance at Mississippi College.

Joseph M. Martin will be the guest of First Church, Vicksburg, on Feb. 24 and 25, for a choir workshop and to present a sacred concert. Martin is a composer with over 250 published choral works for church choirs. He will serve as the guest pianist for Music Leadership Week at Ridgecrest Conference Center this summer. His first recording,



Handsboro Church, Gulfport, recently licensed **Richard Brown** (right) to the gospel ministry. Pictured with Brown is Gregg Thomas, pastor.

"American Tapestry," was nominated for a Dove Award. Martin will play for the Sunday morning service and present a concert at 4 p.m.

HOGANSVILLE, Ga. — **Betty Washburn Brown**, 64, died of cancer Feb. 1 at her home in Hogansville, Ga. Brown was the sister of former Baptist Record associate editor **Anne W. McWilliams** of Clinton. Funeral services were held Feb. 3 at First Church, Hogansville, where Brown was a member. Brown retired from Hogansville High School in 1992, after 32 years as English teacher there. In addition to her sister, she is survived by her mother, Johnnie Lou Washburn; two daughters; a son; and three grandchildren.

RICHMOND, Va. — **Joann Cannon Woods**, a retired Southern Baptist missionary, died Feb. 3 at Quitman, Texas. Born March 27, 1927, in Gainesville, Texas, Mrs. Woods and her husband, E.L. "Buddy" Woods, were appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

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By David Mitchell
Ruth 1

The book of Ruth is one of the most popular books in the Bible and a perfect example of a short story narrative. The book contains all the elements of a literary thriller: love, suspense, tragedy, courage, heroines, heroes, and loyalty. In the Old Testament, Ruth is located in the section known as *Kethubhim*, or writings. It is one of the five *Meghilloth*, or rolls, which were read in the synagogues at major festivals. Ruth was read during the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost. Although both the author and date are unknown, it is factual history that presents the truth of God's grace and teaches that the true people of God are any who choose to follow him.

Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their family were residents of Bethlehem. Sometime near the end of the period of the Judges, a famine in Israel caused his family to sojourn to Moab, a high country east of the Dead Sea. The expression "country of Moab" (land, v. 2) literally means, "fields of Moab." Elimelech's name means "God is my king," and it must suggest his kind spirit and high religious ideals that he imparted to his family. The meaning of his wife's name, Naomi, carries with it the idea of being pleasant or agreeable. It may mean "my joy" or "my pleasant one." The family's intention was to stay in this foreign country of Moab for a temporary period. When the emergency of the famine had passed, they would return to Bethlehem.

Studying the famine forcing Elimelech to move his family to another country should cause us to remember that there are hungry people here and around the world. Before we can have an effective spiritual impact to someone who is physically hungry, we must meet their tangible needs.

During the following period of approximately 10 years, Elimelech's family found sorrow after sorrow (vv. 3-5). Soon after they reached Moab, apparently Elimelech died. This left Naomi with her two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. Almost as soon as they reached adulthood, her sons also died. Fittingly to their circumstances their names — translated — mean "sickly" and "wasting away."

For Naomi the end of this 10 years marked a long period of grief. With no men to lead them, understanding that this was a necessity in their culture, Naomi and her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, set out on a trip to return to Bethlehem, a journey of approximately 50-60 miles. Showing her concern for the future of these two young women, Naomi pleaded that they return to their own country, Moab, rather than go with her to Israel.

Because of their kindness toward Naomi she interceded that God might relate to her daughters-in-law in unfailing goodness, just as they had been loyal to their husbands and to her. Orpah decided that she would return to Moab. Ruth was more persistent in her loyalty. She vowed to continue to follow Naomi even though she had family to whom she might return.

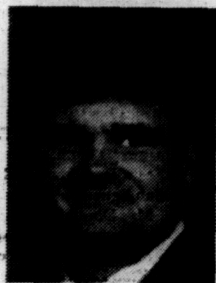
The actions of these three women remind us that we should share each other's hardships. It would be wise for us to remember Jesus' words: "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

Few verses in the Bible have been repeated as often as verses 16-18. They are almost always mentioned during a wedding service to encourage the bride and groom to pledge unfailing loyalty and love to each other. Ruth's momentous decision meant that she would be changing her whole life. Naomi's home would now be her home. The people of Naomi, the God, and the tomb of Naomi would now be hers. There was nothing that could separate them. With words of personal devotion, Ruth convinced Naomi of her stalwart determination and her willingness to forsake her Moabite heritage and to live the rest of her life in a foreign land. In verse 17, Ruth used the personal name for God — *Yahweh* — that is normally translated "the Lord," not the general designation for a deity — *Elohim* — which was customarily used by foreigners. This is a strong indication of the depth of her commitment to God.

The choice to go with Naomi was a choice that changed Ruth's life and brought her untold blessings. Ruth's choice eventually put her in the royal line of David and had a notable impact on the history of the world.

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

Bible Book Leaders' qualifications



By Clayton Littlejohn
1 Timothy 3, 4

Paul's qualifications for church leaders reveal a high standard for them and give God's method of how a church is to function properly.

Qualifications of pastors (3:1-7). Paul had warned the Ephesian leaders that false teachers would arise (Acts 20:29-30), and some already had (1:3-4, 20). To prevent any more he gave qualifications which a true leader should have. He began with the qualifications of a pastor (3:1-2). The word *bishop* is synonymous with the word *pastor* (Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:1-2), and means "one who shepherds the flock." He must be "blameless, the husband of one wife." The deacon also must meet this qualification (3:12).

Some believe this allows a pastor to be divorced and remarried. Both Jesus and Paul gave reasons where divorce was acceptable (Matt. 19:9; 1 Cor. 7:15). Others believe it means to be married only once. This seems to fit the context to me. To many, a divorced and remarried pastor is no longer "blameless" (v. 1), or the husband of one wife (v. 2), or able to rule his own house well (v. 4), or of good report (v. 7) among those outside the church. Each church must decide where it stands on this issue in order to prevent future problems in the church.

The pastor must also be "vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach." "Given to hospitality" means to love strangers. In being "apt to teach," the pastor must be able to communicate God's Word in a way that young and old, educated and uneducated alike, can understand and respond to it.

In verses 3 and 6, Paul listed things a pastor is not to be. One is "given to wine." Because of polluted water in Paul's day, wine was diluted and drunk to prevent serious physical problems (5:23), but today wine is no longer needed and is to be abstained from completely (Rom. 14:21).

The pastor is not to be a "striker, greedy of filthy lucre; a brawler, covetous, or a novice." The word "novice" means new convert. The reason a new convert is negated is because a quick rise to leadership tends to puff one up (prideful) and that's a poor testimony to the church. If he is a babe in Christ, no church needs a baby in leadership.

Qualifications of deacons (3:8-13). The word *deacon* means servant or minister. The deacon must be honest, have integrity, and service (v. 8). He must be able to clearly present the gospel, which is called "mystery of the faith" (v. 9), defined in verse 16 from Christ's birth to his ascension. He too must be "the husband of one wife and rule his house well" (v. 12). All these qualifications must be met before he takes office, "first be proved" (v. 10).

There is some controversy over who Paul is referring to in verse 11. Is it the deacons' wives, or a group of women known as deaconesses? The word "wives" is also translated "women." Many feel Paul was giving qualifications for the office of deaconess. Thomas D. Lea, in *The New American Commentary*, points out that "New Testament Greek did not have a special word for 'deaconess'; but it used the same word with masculine endings to refer to both male and female helpers (see Rom. 16:1)." If a woman can serve as deaconess, her qualifications are listed as "grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."

If this term refers to the deacon's wife, then these are her qualifications which must be met before her husband can take office. I don't personally believe in ordaining women as pastor or deacons, but I thank all those godly women who faithfully serve our Lord without a title. The faithful deacon will have a tremendous reputation in the church and great confidence in the Lord, "purchase to themselves a good degree" (v. 13).

A good minister's example (4:12-16). Evidently Timothy was discouraged and ready to quit the pastorate, so Paul reminded him about "the gift given thee by the presbytery" (v. 14). This would include preaching, teaching, evangelism, and leadership, which the elders had affirmed by the laying on of hands. Paul said, "Those shalt save thyself, and them that hear thee" (v. 16). Perseverance is one of the identifying marks of a believer (Matt. 10:22, 24, 13) and by perseverance and continual teaching of God's Word, Timothy would verify his salvation and also bring others to salvation.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwin.

Life and Work Motives are important



By Linda Donnell
Matthew 6

From time to time we drive our automobile into the service station and say, "Check the motor, please." Perhaps we should drive into God's service station occasionally and ask him to "Check the motive, please."

Why do you do what you do in the church? To what extent are your acts of religious devotion based on the right motive?

A warning against wrong motives (v. 1). Is it not surprising that Jesus would warn against the "religious" righteousness (alms) of the Pharisees? Giving, praying, and fasting, the three cardinal works upon which the Jews based their piety, were not disputed by Jesus as being important. But he did warn that these disciplines might easily lend themselves to practice for the wrong motive.

How subtle is the sinful nature! It is so easy to get caught up in doing things for the praise of man or perhaps for the purpose of "checking them off the list" of things a Christian should do. Over and over in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasized the inner attitude over the outward act.

Motives for giving (vv. 2-4). Giving was the most sacred of all the religious acts to the Jew. To give was to be righteous. But they most often gave for the glory that they might receive. How often do you do a good deed or give a generous gift and keep it a secret? Or how often do you minister or give out of a sense of duty?

Giving is incomplete if you do not give of yourself. The giver who does so in order to demonstrate his generosity will receive his reward — the praise of man. But that is the payment in full (v. 2).

Verses 3 and 4 should not be taken to mean that all gifts should be anonymous. (Remember Matthew 5:15.) The important point is the motive. Real giving will follow the pattern set by Jesus himself: it will be the instinctive outflow of a loving heart.

Motive for praying (vv. 5-8). As with giving, the Pharisees could not be faulted with failure to pray. It was indeed a high priority to them — to the extent that they had prescribed prayers to pray and specific times to offer them. Again, they often got bogged down in the act and totally missed out on the real blessings which pour forth from prayers offered from the heart.

Christians today might also fall into the same trap of offering meaningless words of repetition said before other people. A preacher once described an elaborate prayer offered in a large church as "the most eloquent prayer ever offered" to the congregation. The one praying may have been more concerned with impressing the people than in making contact with God.

The prayers of Christ's followers should be different (vv. 6-7). They should be offered to God with no thought but God. Prayer should be viewed as a relationship, not just a religious activity.

Motives for fasting (vv. 16-18). In a culture where there is a fast food restaurant on almost every corner, fasting may seem to be an irrelevant topic for today. It is the one discipline so important in Jewish religion that is almost completely disregarded in current Christian circles.

Even though Jesus condemned the wrong motives for fasting, he did imply that he expected his followers to engage in this discipline. Verse 16 says, "When you fast..." This did not constitute a command, but perhaps Christians of today would do well to participate in this form of self-discipline. In our affluent, self-indulgent society, fasting might involve a far greater sacrifice to God than giving.

Fasting is more than simply skipping a meal or giving up food or drink. It must be God-initiated and totally God-centered. Only then can the spiritual benefits be enjoyed.

What would be the report from your "motive check-up?" In what areas of life are you most tempted to seek the approval of people rather than God? How honest and sincere are you in your Christian commitment? May our prayer be that all we do and say will be done for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31).

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.

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Mrs. Catherine R. Poovey
Myrtle Gregson
Mr. & Mrs. B. G. Crane
Mrs. Edith E. Griffing
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey M. Brumfield
Mr. Jimmy Grimes
Mr. & Mrs. Pirry Nix
Mrs. Evelyn Griste
Mrs. Mary Wornack
Mrs. Valeria Gullett
Mrs. W. W. Thompson
Margaret Hall
Mr. & Mrs. James G. Hutto
James Hamilton
Mrs. LaVonne L. Bishop
Robert A. Hammett, Sr.
Mr. Tim R. Roberts
Abner M. Hammond
Mr. James W. Hammond Sr.

Myrtle Hannaford
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Gullledge
Mrs. Marjorie Kern Hardy
Mr. & Mrs. Ray R. Cannada
Mrs. Roma Askeu
Weldon Harness
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Young
Marilyn Harrell
Good News SS, FBC-Starkville
John Harris
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Hall
Mrs. Bessie May Harris
Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Bankston
Mrs. Robert (Theresa) Harris
Mr. & Mrs. John Hollingsworth
Tony Harris
Charlotte Bryan
Jane Massey
Gary Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Pogue
Eleanor Umphlett
Mignonne Carmichael
Trisha Harper
Ann Blackledge
Jill Gavin
Renee Stiefel
Alatha Williams
Linda Broadhead
Theresa Stewart
Kay Duncan
Diane Toms
Deborah Goodpaster
Rosie McLaughlin
Sylvia Autry
Nancy Boswell
Ann Schroeder
Georgia Jackson
Mr. Richard Hastings, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Hederman
Mrs. Esther Hay
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Flynt
Mrs. Mary Hayden
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Rose
Mrs. Betty Helble
Mrs. Margaret Fredericks
Luke Helton
Joy SS, FBC-Hattiesburg
Cecil B. Hendricks, Sr.
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mrs. Anna Rounsaville
Woodfin & Mable Hester
Mrs. W. W. Thompson
Mrs. Callie Holcomb
Mrs. Mary Hudson Ford

(to be continued)

10-Year Service Pins Awarded



Tommy Mallory, Central Supply Department India Nunnery Campus

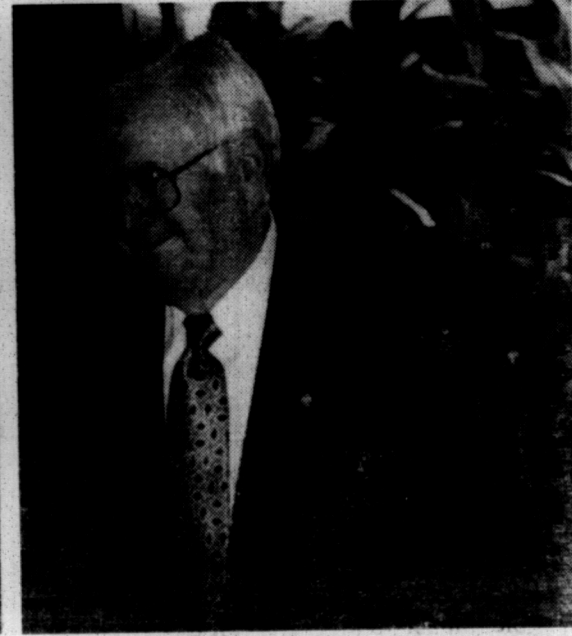


Mamie Sims, Child Care Worker, India Nunnery Campus

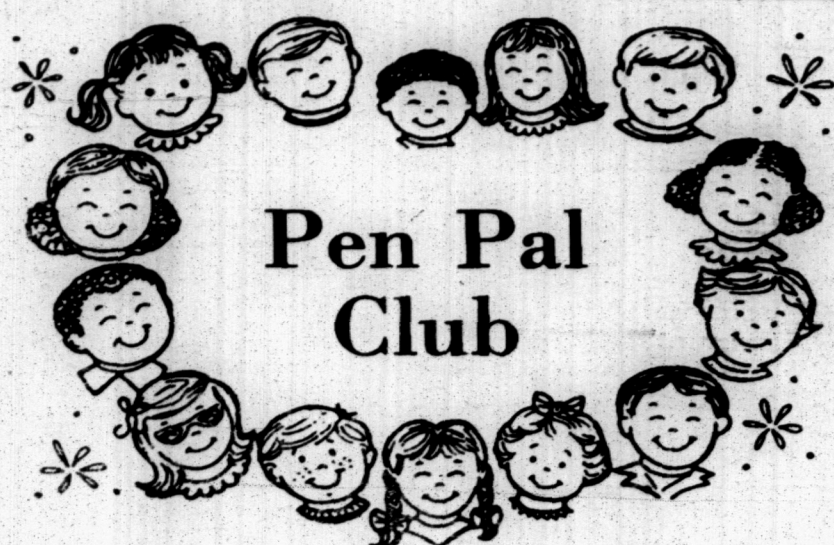
Board Members Honored for 35 Years of Service



Mr. Charlie Miller



Mr. Cooper Walton



Pen Pal Club

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Amy Chandler. I am 10 years old and in the fifth grade. I am a Christian, and a member of Liberty Baptist Church. My hobbies are reading, swimming, watching TV, and riding my bike. I have a Dalmatian and two cats. I love animals. I don't care if you are a boy or a girl. Please send a picture of yourself. Write to me at:

1280 Cr. 107
New Albany, MS 38652

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Bryan Ashmore. I'm 11 years old, and in the seventh grade. I have brown hair and blue eyes. I go to Liberty Baptist Church and I am home-schooled. I am looking for another 11-year-old, but 10 will do. It doesn't matter if you're a boy or girl. My hobbies are listening to my stereo, playing Sega, collecting stamps, fishing, shooting my pellet gun, playing with my dogs, football, and baseball. I have 11 animals — five dogs, and six cats.

Bryan Ashmore
P.O. Box 1442
Zachary, LA 70791

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hello. My name is Amanda Jo Shropshire. I am 12 years old and I am in the sixth grade. I attend Deer Creek Baptist Church in Rolling Fork. The preacher is Michael King. I go to school at Redwood Elementary, and enjoy making anything, collecting rocks and stamps, writing poems and stories, learning new things, playing the clarinet, and reading. My favorite author is R.L. Stine. I have one dog named Bubba, one cat, and some chickens. I don't care if you are a boy or a girl, but please be my age. You can write to me at:

Amanda Jo Shropshire
c/o Rt. 2 Box 351
Rolling Fork, MS 39159

Editor's Note: The following six letters all came from children at South Nettleton Baptist Church. They write that the church "just finished taking up our Lottie Moon Offering. Our goal was \$1,200, and we raised \$1,710.43. We love studying about missions, and would enjoy hearing from missionaries."

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Kyle Lindsey. I'm 8 years old. My birthday is Aug. 8. I go to Nettleton School, and I'm in the second grade. I like to skate,

swim, play ball. I have one brother and one sister, plus one dog. We love to study about missions. We love for boys and girls to write us, plus we enjoy hearing from missionaries.

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Ashley Best. I'm 9 years old. My birthday is Sept. 6, 1986. I go to Nettleton School. I'm in the third grade. I like to swim, skate, and ride my go-cart. I have one brother plus one dog. I have a boyfriend, and his name is Justin. I will send a picture next time.

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Blair Lindsey. I am 12 years old. My birthday is March 8. I go to Nettleton School, and I'm in the seventh grade. I like to skate, swim, sing, and dance. I also like cheerleading. I have two brothers. I also have two dogs, Molly and Buster. I have a boyfriend, Patrick Cheek. I also got most beautiful at school.

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Jordan Lindsey. I'm 9 years old. My birthday is March 5. I go to Nettleton Elementary School. I am in the fourth grade. I like to play ball, ride go-carts. I have one brother and one sister. I have two pet dogs. I don't have a girlfriend, plus I'm very cute. I will send my picture next time.

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Lacy Patterson. I am 11 years old. My birthday is April 27. I go to Nettleton School, and I'm in the sixth grade. I like to skate, swim, play basketball, play softball, and I like to cheer. I have three sisters, three brothers, and Winnie, my dog. We would love for children to write us. I have a boyfriend and his name is Justin Pender.

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Derrik Boland. I'm 11 years old, and attend Nettleton Elementary School. I'm in the fifth grade. My birthday is Sept. 24. I like to ride motorcycles, go-carts, play basketball and football. I have a little brother and his name is Jami. I have a pet puppy. Her name is Babe and she is a collie. We would love for boys and girls to write to us. Sorry I couldn't send a picture, but maybe I'll send one next time.

c/o South Nettleton Baptist Church
P.O. Box 335
Nettleton, MS 38858

CHILDREN'S PAGE



MUSICAL MUNCHIES (NAMING NOTES)



Tim and Tammy are very hungry. Help them find something to eat and drink on this menu of musical munchies. Spell out the words by writing the name of each note on the line below the staff, and by using the decoder for other symbols.

Solution:

Source: **Keep 'Em Singing**, by Joy MacKenzie and Lynn Hodges (Zondervan Publishing House, 1993), available at your local bookstore or by calling (800) 727-3480.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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LZX GIFZF FOPU ZAXN XTIV, O MSNMTIX PF ANX
EPXTNZX TNANZS, LZX PA TPF NEA JNZAXSQ,
OAU OYNAH TPF NEA CPA, OAU PA TPF NEA
TNZFI.

YOSC FPK: RNZS

This week's clue: Z equals U.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis Eight: Twenty-Two.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 2-15
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

February 15, 1996